

VIII. *Descriptions of six new Species of Diurnal Lepidoptera from Nicaragua.* By W. C. HEWITSON, F.L.S.

[Read 15th March, 1869.]

THE collection of butterflies recently brought to this country by Mr. Belt, from Nicaragua, contains twelve new species. The following are descriptions of six of them; belonging to the genera *Heliconia*, *Eresia*, *Eubagis*, *Hætera*, *Mesosemia*, and *Nymphidium*.

1. *Heliconia Diotrepbes*.

Upperside (except the apex of the anterior wing, which is dark brown), blue-green, the outer margins spotted with white. Anterior wing with the central half nearly white, and a spot within the cell which forms part of it, pure white, divided by very fine black nervures: a submarginal series of indistinct white spots. Posterior wing with three apical white spots.

Underside as above, except that it is dark brown: that the anterior wing has a submarginal band of rather large white spots: that the posterior wing has the costal margin (except the base, which is yellow), and two bands which cross the wing (one of which is parallel to the costal margin, and the other to the outer margin), brick-red; a linear white spot on the costal margin at the apex, the three apical spots as above, and a submarginal series of white spots in pairs.

Exp. $3\frac{1}{10}$ inches.

Hab.—Nicaragua.

In the collection of W. C. Hewitson.

This species is very nearly allied to *H. Galanthus* of Bates, but differs from it on the underside, in having a submarginal series of white spots on the anterior wing, and in having the base of the posterior wing yellow.

2. *Eresia Alsina*.

Female. Upperside. Dark brown. Anterior wing with a broad band from the base: crossed obliquely by three bands, the first of which (the longest), before the middle, is divided into four by the nervures, the second

beyond the middle divided into five, and the third near the apex trifid: besides these there is a submarginal band of five spots, all orange-yellow. Posterior wing with the costal and outer margins broadly dark brown; a submarginal band of seven orange-yellow spots.

Underside as above.

Exp. $2\frac{4}{10}$ inches.

Hab.—Nicaragua.

In the collection of W. C. Hewitson.

Most nearly allied to *E. Phillyra*.

3. *Eubagis Sosthenes*.

Male. Upperside. Glossy green. Anterior wing with the outer margin dark brown, widest at the apex and anal angle. Posterior wing with a large brown triangular spot at the anal angle, the outer margin dark brown, narrow.

Underside. Anterior wing rufous-brown, with six large white spots: three small spots of brilliant light blue, two within and one outside the cell. Posterior wing white, crossed by five rufous bands, the first near the base, the fifth submarginal and united with the fourth at both margins: two small black spots at the anal angle, one of which is marked with blue: a linear spot of blue below this.

Exp. $1\frac{6}{10}$ inch.

Hab.—Nicaragua.

In the collection of W. C. Hewitson.

This species differs little on the underside from *E. Chryseis* of Bates.

4. *Hætera polita*.

Female. Upperside. Transparent, very glossy on both sides, the margins dark brown, narrow, the nervures brown, very fine. Anterior wing crossed by three very pale brown bands, the first short within the cell, the second before the middle crosses the cell extending to near the inner margin below the middle, the third from the costal margin beyond its middle to the anal angle. Posterior wing with a submarginal band of pale brown: a round black eye-like spot at the apex, marked by a white spot, with a similar white spot on each side of it.

Exp. $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Hab.—Nicaragua.

In the collection of W. C. Hewitson.

5. *Mesosemia Asa*.

Male. Upperside. Dark brown. Anterior wing with the base, which is brilliant blue, marked by a band in the cell, a spot below it, the usual round eye-like spot (which has three white dots), and a band below this, all black. Posterior wing brilliant blue, with a broad dark brown outer margin.

Underside. Gray-brown. Each wing with the central black eye bordered with green, with three white dots on the anterior wing, and one on the posterior wing: preceded on both wings by a short band of gray and dark brown, and followed by a similar band which crosses both wings, by a broad band of dark brown, and a series of submarginal brown spots.

Female. Dark brown. Anterior wing crossed beyond the middle by a broad white band: the central black spot with a band of yellow on each side. Posterior wing marked as on the underside (but without the central spot), which does not differ from the male.

Exp. $1\frac{4}{10}$ inch.

Hab.—Nicaragua.

In the collection of W. C. Hewitson.

Near to *M. Telegone*, the underside of which is nearly the same.

6. *Nymphidium Onceum*.

Male. Upperside. Dark brown, the outer margins with the usual arched black spots, bordered with white; a large triangular space of white common to both wings; each wing with a large orange spot at the anal angle. Anterior wing with three large orange spots near the base, and a spot of white at the apex of the large triangular space of white.

Exp. $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Hab.—Nicaragua.

In the collection of W. C. Hewitson.

Nearest to *N. Lysimon*, but differs from the other species in having conspicuous orange spots near the base of the anterior wing.

The other new species in Mr. Belt's collection are small, and must be left for illustration by figures.